telecommunication services in District Tehri-Uttarkashi during the year 1998-99;

(b) the present status thereof alongwith the measures being taken to achieve the set target in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No scheme was taken up for laying optical fibre cable in Tehri-Uttarkashi during the year 1998-99.

(b) and (c) Following schemes have now been planned and taken up for execution:

(i) Rishikesh-Narender Nagar-Chamba-New Tehri scheme is under execution and targetted to be commissioned by March 2000.

(ii) Mussoorie-Campty Nainbagh-Damta-Naugaon-Barkot-Bahmakhal-Chinnyalison-Dunda-Uttarkashi scheme is planned for the year 2000-2001.

(iii) Deoprayag-Hindula Khal-Anjani Sain-Ghansali scheme is planned for the year 2000-2001.

All the above schemes would be commissioned subject to availability of resources.

Non-Payment of Money-Order

1251. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaint cell in the Ministry of Communications has received any complaint regarding non-payment of money order No. BE 4115 Murthal, of Rs. 1000 despatched on 5th November, 1999 from Bhagan Branch, District Sonipat which was to be delivered at Village and Post Lal Basepura, District Samastipur, Bihar;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A complaint in this regard was received in the Postal Directorate on 4.2.2000.

(b) On receipt of the complaint, enquiries were taken up and it was revealed that Bhagan Branch (Murthal) money order No. 4115 dated 5.11.99 transmitted through V-SAT network did not reach the destination. A duplicate money order was got issued which has been paid to the payee on 28.2.2000.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above does not arise.

Opening of Post Office/Telegraph Office at Bironkhal Block, Pauri Garhwal

1252. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Baijrao area of Bironkhal Block of Pauri Garhwal, U.P. does not have the facility of telegraph office;

(b) whether it is also a fact that village Sukai of above-said block being biggest in that area does not have the basic facility of a post-office and people have to travel long distance to avail this facility; and

(c) if the reply to (a) and (b) is in affirmative, the reason therefor and by when Government intend to provide these facilities to the residents of above said places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There is no telegraph office in Baijrao area of Bironkhal Block of Pauri Garhwal, U.P. because as per DoT norms such an office is not justified there.

(b) Presently there is no post office at Sukai, which is being served by Sub Post Office Baijrao situated at a distance of 4 Kms. As per 1991 census, the population of Sukai is 616.

(c) For opening of a post office at Sukai, no request has been received nor any demand is pending.

Upgradation of Post Offices in Meghalaya

1253. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened in the State of Meghalaya during the last three years;